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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings:

The 1966 Hibiscus Shows are now history and have given us a lot to reflect on. The seedling tables in particular have been the best ever. Mrs. Philo and I visited 9 of the 10 shows this year and all of them in 1965 so we feel we would like to pass on some opinions that we have formed. We are certain of one thing and that is that there has been steady improvement over the past several years in the management and judging of the shows with a lot of real progress this past year, due in some part to the fine sponsorship that has been given by our banks.

First Vice President, Lee Trainor, who is chairman of our Show and Judging Rules Committee, already is hard at work on several details that will certainly be for further improvement.

I am appealing to every AHS member to read every word that is being published in this issue of the Seed Pod by the newly formed Hybridization Committee under the able leadership of Harry Goulding.

In the past, too much time has been wasted by many hibiscus enthusiasts in the production of seed and raising of seedlings with far too many disappointments. Another real tragedy is the fact that several of our successful hybridizers have been taken from amongst us and have left very little data concerning their successes for us to work with.

The new committee is making an earnest effort to outline helpful information that will give each and every member a chance to get into this program with reasonable assurance of some success. This I consider a very worthwhile enterprise. We can lead a horse to water but we cannot make him drink. The only way in which dividends can be expected will be for those who can to undertake this program following the suggestions as accurately as possible. I even dream of the production of good Hibiscus seed in such a quantity that our Seed Bank Administrator can satisfy the desires of all of our Hibiscus friends throughout the world.

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